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Agenda item 97 (a)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: women and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 27th and 39th meetings, on 19 November and 11 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.27 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.21 and A/C.2/56/L.63

2. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/56/L.21), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and all of its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and also the relevant resolutions and the agreed conclusions, including those on women in the economy, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

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"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for twenty-first century', and other recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration which calls for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

"*Recognizing* the significant contribution that women make to the economy and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

"*Reaffirming* that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

"*Recognizing* that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology and employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

"*Recognizing also* in this context the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, equity, popular participation and political freedom for the advancement and empowerment of women,

"*Recognizing further* that education and training, particularly in business, trade, administration, information and communication technologies and other new technologies are essential for gender equality, women empowerment and poverty eradication,

"*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

"*Aware* that, although globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have made women, especially in developing countries and in particular the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility,

"*Recognizing* that some effects of market liberalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of women in the agricultural sector, including through the loss of employment among small-scale farmers who are more likely to be women than men, and emphasizing that small-scale women farmers need special support and empowerment so as to be able to meet the challenges and opportunities of agricultural market liberalization,

"*Recognizing also* that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through an improved outlet access, will improve the

economic condition of those societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

"*Aware* that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by the lack of equal access between women and men to credit, technology, support services, land and information,

"*Emphasizing* the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the access of rural women to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to finance by women,

"*Expressing its concern* about the under-representation of women in economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy formulation, implementation and evaluation,

"*Noting* the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on women in development: access to financial resources: a gender perspective;

"2. *Calls* for the accelerated and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the relevant provisions contained in the outcome of all other major United Nations conferences and summits;

"3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life is necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

"4. *Urges* Governments to develop and to promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

"5. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

"7. *Urges* all Governments to ensure the equal access of women to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

"8. *Also urges* all Governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in regard to their access to bank loans,

mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women who require proper legal assistance;

"9. *Calls upon* Governments and entrepreneurial associations to facilitate the access of young women and women entrepreneurs to education and training in business, administration and information and communication technologies;

"10. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment and, in this regard, notes the importance of sound national financial systems and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

"11. *Stresses* the need for international assistance to enable women in developing countries, particularly grass-roots women's groups, to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;

"12. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage the financial sector to mainstream a gender perspective in their policies and programmes, in particular by:

"(a) Exploring viable venues to reach people living in poverty, in particular women, including through international public and/or private funds;

"(b) Designing savings schemes that are attractive to the poor and to poor women in particular;

"(c) Undertaking research to learn more about the characteristics, financial needs and performance of businesses owned by women;

"(d) Working towards equal treatment for women clients, through the provision of comprehensive gender-awareness training for staff at all levels, and better representation of women in decision-making positions;

"13. *Requests* Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation at all levels so that their priorities, skills and potentials can be adequately reflected in national policy;

"14. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, inter alia, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

"15. *Also calls upon* the international community to make efforts to mitigate the effects of excess volatility and economic disruption, which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, and to enhance trade opportunities for developing countries in order to improve the economic conditions of women;

"16. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational

activities for development in support of the efforts of Governments to ensure, inter alia, increased access of women to health care, capital, education, training and technology and full and equal participation in all decision-making;

"17. *Calls upon* developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries, so as to assist the developing countries in implementing strategies to eradicate poverty and to promote development and gender equality;

"18. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to provide the necessary financial resources to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon in the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other United Nations conferences and summits;

"19. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

"20. *Also urges* the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, to examine all aspects of financing for development from a gender perspective in order to ensure the access of women to financial resources;

"21. *Reiterates* its requests to the Secretary-General to update the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; as in the past, this survey should focus on selective emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels;

"22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the impact of globalization on the empowerment of women and their integration in development;

"23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'Women in development'."

3. At the 39th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Garfield Barnwell (Guyana), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/56/L.63), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.63 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.63, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and all of its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions, including those on women in the economy,[1] adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for twenty-first century", other recent major United Nations conferences and summits and other relevant special sessions of the General Assembly, as well as their follow-up processes,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

Reaffirming further that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to the economy and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications,

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1, agreed conclusions 1997/3.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

science and technology and employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

Recognizing also in this context the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, popular participation and political freedom for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Recognizing further that education and training, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communication technologies and other new technologies, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing also that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

Aware that, although globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have made women, especially in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility,

Recognizing that some effects of market liberalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of women in the agricultural sector, including through the loss of employment among small-scale farmers who are more likely to be women than men, and emphasizing that women who are small-scale farmers need special support and empowerment so as to be able to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization,

Recognizing also that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

Aware that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the lack of equal access of women and men to and control over credit, technology, support services, land and information,

Concerned that the continuing discrimination against women, the denial or lack of equal rights and access to education, training and credit facilities and the lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Emphasizing the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the access of rural women to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to finance by women,

Expressing its concern about the under-representation of women in economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development, and recognizing the work done by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on the Status of Women will take up the theme of eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world, at its forty-sixth session, in 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on women in development: access to financial resources: a gender perspective;[6]

2. *Calls* for the accelerated and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the relevant provisions of the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] as well as in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences, summits and other relevant special sessions of the General Assembly and their follow-up processes;

3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life is necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

4. *Urges* Governments to develop and to promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

5. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

6. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

7. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

8. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers and to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypical attitudes to gender equality at work, and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

9. *Urges* all Governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to bank loans, mortgages

[6] A/56/321 and Corr.1.

and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women, and to support women's access to legal assistance;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and entrepreneurial associations to facilitate the access of women, including young women and women entrepreneurs, to education and training in business, administration and information and communication technologies;

11. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment and, in this regard, notes the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

12. *Stresses* the need for assistance to enable women in developing countries, particularly grass-roots women's groups, to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;

13. *Urges* States to design and revise laws that ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital and appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage the financial sector to mainstream a gender perspective in its policies and programmes, in particular by:

(a) Exploring viable venues to reach people living in poverty, in particular women, including through international public and/or private funds;

(b) Designing savings schemes that are attractive to the poor and to poor women in particular;

(c) Undertaking research to learn more about the characteristics, financial needs and performance of businesses owned by women;

(d) Working towards equal treatment for women clients through comprehensive gender-awareness training for staff at all levels, and better representation of women in decision-making positions;

15. *Requests* Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and in policy formulation and implementation at all levels so that their priorities, skills and potentials can be adequately reflected in national policy;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, inter alia, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers as well as the provision of the necessary care for working women's children and other dependants;

17. *Calls upon* the international community to make efforts to mitigate the effects of excess volatility and economic disruption, which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, and to enhance trade opportunities for developing countries in order to improve the economic conditions of women;

18. *Urges* the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries

to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development in support of the efforts of Governments to ensure, inter alia, full and equal access of women to health care, capital, education, training and technology, as well as full and equal participation in all decision-making;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

20. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, as appropriate, to assist Governments, at their request, in building institutional capacity and developing national action plans or further implementing existing action plans for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

22. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

23. *Encourages* the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, to examine all aspects of financing for development from a gender perspective;

24. *Encourages* Governments to integrate fully a gender perspective in their preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002;

25. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;[7]

26. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to update the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; as in the past, the survey should focus on selective emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels;

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[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV.A, para. 4.

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the impact of globalization on the empowerment of women and their integration in development;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 27th and 40th meetings, on 19 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.27 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.24 and A/C.2/56/L.74

2. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/56/L.24), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 52/196 of 18 December 1997 and 54/211 of 22 December 1999, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,
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> "*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government in September 2000,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

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"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2001/299 of 19 July 2001, by which it adopted 'The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development' as the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2002,

"*Recognizing* that human beings are at the centre of concern in sustainable development,

"*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

"*Stressing also* that there is a need for an enabling international environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Stressing further* that health and education are at the core of human resources development, and the need to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Emphasizing* that human resources development should be an essential component of international development cooperation and that there is a need to promote continuous training and capacity-building within projects and programmes as a means of advancing such development,

"*Recognizing* that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and the girl child,

"*Recognizing also* the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

"*Expressing concern* at the increasing gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

"*Stressing* that developing countries should be assisted so that they can be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and to avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and of other major diseases on human resources development, particularly in developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most

vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

"3. *Urges* increased investments in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, to achieve social and economic development and the well-being of all;

"4. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

"5. *Urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

"6. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local and community-level engagement in policy issues of human resources development;

"7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

"8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

"9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general, including by:

"(a) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training in order to facilitate improved access, and to make funds available for those purposes;

"(b) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients or interested developing countries;

"(c) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

"(d) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

"(e) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

"10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

"11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take a comprehensive view of human resources development in its initiatives, relating it to the acquisition of broader knowledge with a view to enabling human resources to respond to the new demands associated with the technology revolution and take advantage of emerging opportunities in a globalized world;

"12. *Encourages also* the United Nations system to promote strategies for human resources development that facilitate access by developing countries to new information and communication technologies so as to bridge the digital divide;

"13. *Encourages further* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

"14. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to engage, where appropriate, with the private sector, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to further contribute to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

"15. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

"16. *Calls upon* developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities in developing countries for advancing human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Garfield Barnwell (Guyana), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/56/L.74), which he submitted as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 52/196 of 18 December 1997 and 54/211 of 22 December 1999, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government in September 2002,[2]

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2001/299 of 19 July 2001, by which the Council adopted "The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development" as the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2002,

Recognizing that human beings are at the centre of concern in sustainable development,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continuing support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also that there is a need for an enabling national and international environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Stressing further that health and education are at the core of human resources development, and the need to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar in April 2000, and in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

Emphasizing that human resources development should be an essential component of international development cooperation and that there is a need to promote continuous training and capacity-building within projects and programmes as a means of advancing such development,

Recognizing that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and girls,

Recognizing also the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

Expressing concern at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

Stressing that developing countries should be assisted in their efforts to develop capacity in and to be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and to avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

Expressing deep concern at the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and of other major diseases on human resources development, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

3. *Urges* increased investments by all countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, with a view to achieving sustainable development and the well-being of all;

4. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority to human resources development in the context of the adoption of national economic and social policies, including their financing, taking into account their financial constraints;

5. *Urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods,

[3] A/56/162.

empowerment of women, involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, the needs of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

6. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local and community-level engagement in policy issues of human resources development;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development;

8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for that purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general by, inter alia:

(a) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training which, together with the enabling policies and institutions both at the national and international levels, will facilitate improved access;

(b) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients in interested developing countries;

(c) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

(d) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

(e) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take a comprehensive view of human resources development in its initiatives, relating it to the acquisition of broader knowledge with a view to enabling human resources to respond to the new

demands associated with the technology revolution and take advantage of emerging opportunities in a globalized world;

12. *Encourages also* the United Nations system to promote strategies for human resources development that facilitate access by developing countries to new information and communication technologies so as to bridge the digital divide;

13. *Encourages further* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to engage, where appropriate, with the private sector, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to further contribute to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

15. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

16. *Calls upon* developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities in developing countries for advancing human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 97 (c)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 27th and 38th meetings, on 19 November and 10 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.27 and 38).

II. Consideration or proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.22 and A/C.2/56/L.56

2. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "High-level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/56/L.22), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

01-69395 (E) 141201

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996, 52/186 of 18 December 1997, 53/181 of 15 December 1998, 54/213 of 22 December 1999 and 55/193 of 20 December 2000,

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled 'United Nations Millennium Declaration',

"*Recalling* the Agenda for Development and the relevant provisions on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to follow up on the Agenda effectively,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of continuing the dialogue to be conducted in response to the imperative of solidarity, mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership in promoting international economic cooperation for development,

"*Recognizing*, in this context, the importance of an enabling environment and sound economic policy at both the national and the international levels,

"*Taking note* of the need to ensure the integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits,

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued constructive dialogue and genuine partnership to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

"2. *Decides* to convene the third two-day high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

"3. *Decides also* that the timing, the themes and the modalities of the third high-level dialogue will be decided through the intergovernmental process at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to propose themes for the promotion of international economic cooperation for the third high-level dialogue for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

"5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), introduced a draft resolution entitled "High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development

through partnership" (A/C.2/56/L.56), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.22.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.56 (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Documents relating to the high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

6. At its 38th meeting, on 10 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level dialogue on the theme "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century" (A/56/482) (see para. 8).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996, 52/186 of 18 December 1997, 53/181 of 15 December 1998, 54/213 of 22 December 1999 and 55/193 of 20 December 2000,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration",

Recalling the Agenda for Development[1] and the relevant provisions on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to follow up on the Agenda effectively,

Reaffirming the importance of continuing the dialogue to be conducted in response to the imperative of solidarity, mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership in promoting international economic cooperation for development,

Recognizing, in this context, the importance of an enabling environment and sound economic policy at both the national and the international level,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

Taking note of the need to ensure the integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued constructive dialogue and genuine partnership to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to propose the modalities, the nature and the timing of such constructive dialogue and genuine partnership for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level dialogue on the theme "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly decides to take note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level dialogue on the theme "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century."[2]

[2] A/56/482.

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 97 (d)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 27th and 39th meetings, on 19 November and 11 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.27 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.23

2. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade" (A/C.2/56/L.23).

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

01-69383 (E) 141201

3. At the 39th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Garfield Barnwell (Guyana), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally revised operative paragraph 2 by inserting the words "issue of" before the words "further development of a new international development strategy".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.23, as orally revised (see para. 5).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

5. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 45/234 of 21 December 1990, 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993, 49/92 of 19 December 1994, 51/173 of 16 December 1996, 53/178 of 15 December 1998, 54/206 of 22 December 1999 and 55/190 of 20 December 2000, and the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recalling also the results of all the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the targets and commitments relating to development and poverty eradication,

Recalling the outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,[3] the Third United Nations Conference on the Least

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

Developed Countries,[4] and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[5]

Emphasizing the importance of the other development-oriented meetings to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations in 2002, including the International Conference on Financing for Development, the special session of the General Assembly on children and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

1. *Expresses regret* that the consultations foreseen in resolution 54/206 of 22 December 1999 could not be held;

2. *Decides* to consider the issue of further development of a new international development strategy during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on the basis of the outcomes of the aforementioned meetings and keeping in mind the outcome of the review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;[6]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session with an overview of the challenges and constraints as well as progress made towards achieving the major development goals and objectives adopted by the United Nations during the past decade;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

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[4] A/CONF.191/11.

[5] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[6] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

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Agenda item 97

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on the item as a whole was taken at the 40th meeting, on 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary record (A/C.2/56/SR.40).

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

2. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General, entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/172, including the recommendations of the seventh Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (A/56/221) (see para. 3).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

3. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

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Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/172

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General, entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/172, including the recommendations of the seventh Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development.[1]

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[1] A/56/221.